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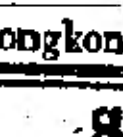
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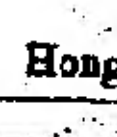
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to call at their Office of Lading for accounts
by the Underwriters and for con-
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 Singapore, June 27, 1894. 1083

LAW AND LAUGHTER.

Perhaps it is because law seems rather alien to laughter, and a law court the last place where one expects to be merry, that a joke goes far with it, as it is made so much of by all who are connected with the legal profession.

The following amusing incident occurred in Westminster Hall between Lord Campbell and an eminent Queen's Counsel. The action was one brought to recover for damages done to a carriage which the Q.C. repeatedly called a broom, pronouncing both syllables of the word *broom*. Whereupon Lord Campbell pompously observed, "broom is the more usual pronunciation; a carriage of the kind you mean is generally and not incorrectly called a broom—that pronunciation is open to no grave objection, and it has the great advantage of saving the time consumed by uttering an extra syllable." Half an hour later in the same trial Lord Campbell, alluding to a decision given in a similar action, said, "in that the carriage which had sustained injury was an omnibus—'Pardon me, my lord,' interposed the Q.C., 'a carriage of the kind to which you draw attention is usually termed a bus'; that pronunciation is open to no great objection, and it has the great advantage of saving the time consumed by uttering extra syllables." The interruption was followed by a roar of laughter, in which Lord Campbell joined more heartily than anyone else.

When in a trial about limestone quarries a barrister called Chalmers had said over and over again with full conviction that they "were not reliable, because the limestone could only be reached by boring, which was a matter of science." Mr. Chalmers, however, have us believe that every kind of boring is matter of science? With the same assurance he said, "My Lord, said the orator, with nervous intonation, 'in the book of nature it is written—'Be kind enough, Mr. Jackson, interposed Lord Elphinstone, 'to mention the page from which you are about to quote.'"

One of the best "legal" puns was made by Lord Chalmers when he was Sir Frederick Thesiger. He had objected to a learned counsel who, in examining witness in a case in which he was engaged, put leading questions. "I have a right to put leading questions," he said, "to deal with my witness as I please." "To that I offer no objection," retorted Sir Frederick; "you may deal as you like, but you shall not lead."

Baron Alderson was an excellent classical scholar, so it made him smile when a barrister applied in his court for a writ of Habeas Corpus. "Consider, Sir," he said, "this is the last day of term and don't make things unnecessarily long." It was this judge who, in reply to the jurymen's confession that he was deaf in one ear, observed, "Then leave the box before that jurymen begins, for it is necessary that jurymen should hear both sides."

A witness eighty years old having given his evidence with remarkable clearness, Lord Mansfield examined him as to his habitual mode of living, and found that he had throughout his life been an early riser, a singularly temperate man, and that he served the Chief Justice in a tone of approval. "I have always found that without temperance and early habits, longevity is never attained. The next witness the elder brother of this mode of temperance was then called, and he almost immediately produced an intelligent and clear-headed utterer of evidence. "I suppose," observed Lord Mansfield, "that you also are an early riser?" "No, my lord," answered the veteran stoutly; "I like my bed at all hours, and especially I like it in the morning." "Ah, but this young brother is a very temperate man!" quickly asked the Chief Justice, looking out anxiously for the safety of the more important part of his theory. "My lord," responded this ancient Elm disdaining to plead guilty to a charge of habitual sobriety. "I am a very old man, and my memory is as clear as a bell, but I can't remember the night when I have gone to bed without having been more or less drunk." Lord Mansfield was silent. "Ah, my lord," the leading counsel exclaimed, "this old man's case supports a theory upheld by many persons, that habitual intemperance is favourable to longevity." "No, no," replied the Chief Justice with a smile, "this old man and his brother merely teach us that every carpenter knows—that Elm, whether it be wet or dry, is a very tough wood."

Amongst old anecdotes concerning witnesses may be placed those which exemplify the difficulty which a judge often experiences in understanding the nautical technicalities of sea-faring, and the provincialisms of provincial witnesses. Lord Mansfield was presiding at a trial, consequent upon a collision of two ships at sea, when a sailor, whilst giving testimony, said, "At the time I was standing about the binacle," whereupon his lordship, with a proper desire to master the facts of the case, observed, "Stay, stay a minute, witness; you were standing about the binacle. Now tell me what is about the binacle?" This was too much for the gravity of the "sailor," who immediately began climbing into the witness-box had taken a copious draught of neat rum. Removing his eyes from the bench, and turning round upon the crowded court with an expression of intense annoyance, he exclaimed at the top of his voice, "He's a pretty fellow for a judge! I blow my soul out for you! You have got a pretty sort of land-lubber for a judge! He wants me to tell him where about the binacle is!" Not less amused than the witness, Lord Mansfield rejoined, "Well, my friend, you must sit me for my office by telling me where about the binacle is. You've already shown me the meaning of half sea over."

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my kidneys, and the secretion which issued from them was thick and yellow as the yolk of an egg. Month after month passed and I failed more and more, and could hardly crawl about.

I had a doctor attending me, but his medicines did not benefit me. He saw my liver and kidneys were in a bad way, and that he never saw success in such a case. After treating me six months, he told me that medicine could do no more for me and advised me to go to a hospital. I went to the Peterborough Hospital, but got worse while there. The hospital doctors refused to tell me what ailed me. Having spent two months there, I got anxious and returned to my home, utterly discouraged. I continued to send to the hospital for medicine, but I took for three months longer. I was now so emaciated that my friends who came to see me said I would never get well.

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